PRECISION MEASUREMENT OF THE HIGGS BOSON MASS AND SEARCH FOR DILEPTON MASS RESONANCES IN H $\rightarrow 4\ell$ DECAYS USING THE CMS DETECTOR AT THE LHC

By

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A DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

2022

I dedicate this to Jacob Myhre.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without so many two- and four-legged blessings along the way, I could never have made it to this point in my academic career. Thus, I give my infinite thanks to the following folks.

To my high energy physics mentors, Professors Andrey Korytov and Guenkah Mitselmakher, for granting me this one-of-a-kind opportunity to do real *science* at CERN.

To my wife, Suzanne Rosenzweig, for showing me that dreams do come true. To my mother and father, Vicki and John, who always reassured me that I could achieve anything I put my mind to. Sleep peacefully, Mom. To my siblings, Alex, Ryan, Devin, Jace, and Claudia who frequently and gently reminded me that there was life outside of grad school.

Aunt Rach, Uncle Yuri,

To my mentor, Sheldon Friedman, and his wife, Rita Friedman (Rosenzweig), who chose to invest in my success at a young age. I have only made it this far thanks to your undying encouragement, love, and optimism. To Sheldon's best friend, Dr. Bernard Khoury, whose reputation has helped pave my road.

To Dr. Filippo Errico for his Dr. Lucien Lo To Dr. Noah Steinberg To Darin Acosta, for spending hours of discussion on every t To the gentle gents who introduced me to the world of CMS, Brendan Regnery and Bhargav Joshi.

To my comrades for showing me what it takes to survive the core courses, Dr. Atool Divakarla, Dr. Brien O'Brendan, Dr. Donyell Guerrero, and Dr. Vladinar Martinez.

To the many students who tagged along in our "CMS Office Hours": Sean Kent, Jeremiah Anglin, Cris Caballeros, Ari Gonzalez, Evan Koenig, Nik Menendez, Neha Rawal, John Rötter. And to the many students who let us practice our spiels:

To my mentee, Matthew Dittrich, for

To my Polish roommates in Saint-Genis-Pouilly for showing me what home away from home feels like.

To the many moms who generously gave unconditional support during the darkest times and unconditional love during the brightest times: Silet Wiley, Margaret Sherrill, Dawn Hood, Cyndi Reilly-Rogers.

To my childhood best friends: Jish, Willis, Shane, Zac, Duck, and Marcus for their constant

clever competition which has shaped me into the determined man I am today.

Big Tree:

And finally to Existence itself for this unpredictable, unbelievable blip of an experience called life.

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

The universe, while overwhelmingly vast, is comprised of a curiously small number of elementary particles. These particles and their strong, weak, and electromagnetic interactions with each other are accurately described by the Standard Model (SM). A major shortcoming of the SM was its inability to predict the masses of these particles.

This dissertation presents a precision measurement of the Higgs boson mass and using LHC proton-proton collision data from Run 2 data set from

The SM was not able to predict the masses of these particles until 1964 when the Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism suggested that It wasn't until 1964 that the Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism gave a self-consistent way to : by breaking the electroweak gauge symmetry of the vacuum would give rise to non-zero masses of the weak gauge bosons. This would yield a secondary effect too: there should exist a fundamental scalar boson which is the quantum of the so-called "Higgs field". On July 4th, 2012, this Higgs boson was discovered.

At first glance, the universe appears to be an overwhelmingly vast and complicated place. However upon closer inspection, it is comprised of only a few different kinds of fundamental particles. Particle physics has given rise to the Standard Model (SM) which mathematically describes these constituents and their interactions with each other.

The Standard Model (SM) is an impressively accurate mathematical theory which describes the fundamental particles of the universe and the rules for their possible interactions. Problematically though, the SM predicts that all particles are massless.

Get to the Higgs boson.

Why is it important? Knowing the mass of the Higgs boson

CHAPTER 2

HIGGS BOSON MASS MEASUREMENT IN THE $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ CHANNEL

2.1 Introduction

The Higgs boson was discovered in 2012 by the CMS and ATLAS collaborations. This was a momentous achievement in particle physics because the existence of the Higgs boson was required to complete the SM. In fact, it is sometimes referred to as the "missing puzzle piece" of the SM. The Higgs boson is one of a kind: it is the only fundamental scalar particle ever discovered so far. The unique boson could be a portal to new physics (*beyond Standard Model physics*, BSM), e.g., by decaying into BSM low-mass dilepton mass resonances (Chapter **??**). In order to be certain that the recently discovered Higgs boson is truly the same as the one predicted by the SM, it is necessary to compare its measured properties to the predicted ones.

Some properties of the Higgs boson can be predicted by the SM, like - There are many results on Higgs properties: spin, charge, decay processes, lifetime, mass. - The last of these is the focus of this dissertation and is of particular importance to the Universe: depending on mH and mtop, the stability of the Universe.

ALL previous mass measurements: - Run 1: - H->2gamma VALUE - H->ZZ->4L VALUE - Run 2: - H->2gamma VALUE - (2016) H->ZZ->4L VALUE - H->bb - H->mumu - H->WW

- Why this thesis is important: - This thesis describes the methodology and results of the best precision measurement of mH to date by using the hZZ4l decay and Full Run 2 data set from CMS. - Run 2 provides more data -> more precision on measurements of Higgs properties. - In addition to more HZZ4l events, this analysis provides new techniques, specifically the VX constraint. - Predict mH for Run 3, will start soon summer 2022 and provide an approximate 300? /fb of L int. - In 2026(?), HLLHC provides even more data. ref snowmass paper.

This chapter is structured as follows:

- General overview of the Higgs boson mass measurement ingredients (Section 2.2).
- Data sets, simulation, triggers (Section **??**).
- Event reconstruction and selection (Section **??**).
- Background estimation (Irred. and Reduc. Backgrounds).
- Signal modeling: kinematic discriminant, per-event mass uncertainties, VXBS constraint, reference to ad hoc studies in appendix.

- Systematic uncertainties.
- Results.
- Summary.

SEEMS TO BE A GOOD INTRO. Should it be the intro for the entire thesis?

2.2 Analysis Overview

The first step to performing a precision measurement of the Higgs boson mass (m_{H}) is to "observe" many Higgs bosons. However, production of a Higgs boson is essentially nonexistent in everyday conditions and is still extremely rare even in the high-energy pp collisions of the LHC. Even at the center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV, the total inclusive inelastic cross section of two protons colliding is 70 mb TODO: CITE. Comparing this to the production cross section of a Higgs boson (TODO sigma(pptoH) = 59 pb) shows that a Higgs boson is produced in approximately only 1 out of about every billion pp collisions. TODO CITE

To complicate matters further, the Higgs boson has a *very* short mean lifetime of only 1.6×10^{-22} s [1]. Thus, the Higgs boson is not directly detected by CMS but is instead *inferred* from via the stable decay products enter the various subdetectors.

Higgs boson decays via variety of decay modes. Look at Figure to see branching ratios/fractions.

Real particles enter detectors in CMS which send signals to various electronics. Particle Flow algorithm pieces the information together to construct objects out of each event. Now, instead of just a deposit of energy in the ECAL and corresponding hits in the silicon tracker, the particle is identified as a newly produced electron. CMS records which kinds of objects came from which events and stores the information in *data sets* (TODO: ref Section future). Since there is an enormous amount of data to sift through, analysts can look at which events caused which *triggers* (TODO: ref Section previous cms triggers)

Using special triggers that sort events

It is therefore imperative to collect as many signal events as possible.

This is achieved by careful event selection from the physics objects stored within the CMS data sets.

Unfortunately, the $H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ process is rare because This is done by sifting through pp collision data analyzed by the CMS detector (Chapter **??**) to identify all possible $H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell$ events (the *signal* process). This signal process is used because it has a large signal-to-background ratio of approximately 2. Furthermore, even if a Higgs boson is produced, it decays into two Z bosons only 2.6% of the time (Figure 2-1). This percentage is typically expressed as a fraction,

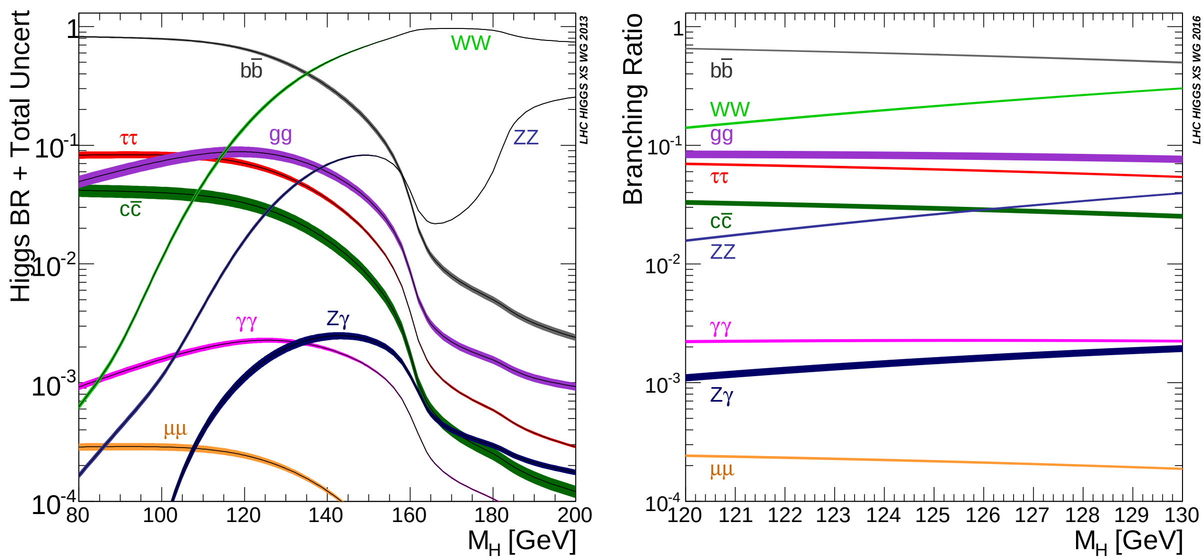

Figure 2-1. The branching ratios of various Higgs boson decays as a function of the Higgs boson mass.

called the *branching fraction* or *branching ratio* ($\mathcal{B}$). Those Z bosons then decay into opposite-sign, same flavor leptons ($Z \to \ell^+\ell^-$, where $\ell = e, \mu$) only 6.7% of the time, making the branching ratio of the signal process approximately:

$$\mathcal{B}\left(H \to ZZ^* \to 4\ell\right) = \mathcal{B}\left(H \to ZZ^*\right)\left[\mathcal{B}\left(Z \to \ell^+\ell^-\right)\right]^2 = 1.8 \times 10^{-3}.$$

Thus, the signal process is produced only once about every *trillion* pp collisions.

- By collecting events with the 4ℓ final state, we are likely to find signal events. - It's not just the signal process which produces 4ℓ: background also makes 4ℓ (Section FIXME). - Before analyzing the data, however, it is important to make predictions using simulated samples (Section FIXME). - In order to sort signal from background, use simulated samples

, which is the formation of particle physics objects from data. The data collected and analyzed by CMS is not so simple so as to have $H \to ZZ^{*}$

This process hinges on the conservation of momentum, since in the longitudinal (z) direction the pp collision has initial and final. Specifically, the - The Z boson has a precisely measured mass of TODO a neutral particle, so the two leptons into which it decays should combine to Group two leptons together, - Form two different pairs of opposite-sign, same-flavor (OSSF) leptons - If it appears that the to select specific hzz4l events (*event selection*).

words.

REFERENCES

[1] P.A. Zyla et al. Review of Particle Physics. *PTEP*, 2020(8):083C01, 2020. doi: 10.1093/ptep/ptaa104. and 2021 update.